



Stay in London from \$88!  
\*Pr. pn based on cbl occupancy.

Book now at ba.com



[NYTimes.com](#) > [Science](#)

## For Crickets, It's Wise to Blend In



Photographs by Gregory A. Sword and (inset) Darryl Gwynne

Published: February 22, 2005

**F**lightless Mormon crickets, like those on a road in northeastern Utah, above, are a lot like locusts - except that when they migrate by the millions, they walk and hop.

Observers who are not crickets have always wondered why they would want to be in such a crowd. One idea is that there is safety in numbers. Predators following the crowd should have so many crickets to choose from that one cricket among millions would have good survival odds.

Dr. Gregory A. Sword of the Department of Agriculture's Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory in Sidney, Mont., worked with colleagues from the University of North Carolina and the University of Toronto to test this hypothesis.

They glued tiny transmitters on the inch-and-a-half-long insects and removed some crickets from the horde. All the crickets who stayed with the crowd survived the experiment. But about half the lone crickets died. Their transmitters were found chewed and pecked, in trees and rodent burrows. If you're a cricket, it appears, you need to go along to get along.

**[Subscribe Today: Home Delivery of The Times from \\$2.90/wk.](#)**

### ARTICLE TOOLS

- [E-Mail This](#)
- [Printer-Friendly Format](#)
- [Most E-Mailed Articles](#)
- [Reprints & Permissions](#)

ARTICLE TOOLS SPONSORED BY **SIDEWAYS**  
NOW PLAYING IN THEATERS

### Most E-Mailed

1. [Doctors See a Big Rise in Injuries for Young Athletes](#)
2. [Op-Ed Columnist: Wag-the-Dog Protection](#)
3. [With \\$3.50 and a Dream, the 'Anti-Christo' Is Born](#)
4. [Behind Those Medical Malpractice Rates](#)
5. [New Course by Royal Navy: A Campaign to Recruit Gays](#)

[Go to Complete List](#)

Advertisement

travelocity  
You'll never roam alone.™

Need a change of scenery?

Last Minute Deals from under \$200.

Search Deals

**Real Estate**  
[nytimes.com/realstate](#)

**FIND YOUR DREAM HOME**

Search listings in NYC, the NY tri-state area, Florida and beyond!

Select a search

[Manhattan](#) | [Westchester](#) | [Florida](#) | [All Areas](#)

ADVERTISER LINKS [what's this?](#)

**Affordable Insect Control**  
Get Advice From The Insect Experts w/ a Free Evaluation! Get Info.  
[www.Terminix.com](#)

**Bug Control**  
Tips and information on controlling bugs. From Bayer Advanced.  
[www.bayeradvanced.com](#)

**The Superworm Farm, Inc.**  
Producer of superworms, cricket, mealworms and other feeder insects.  
[www.superwormfarm.com](#)

OUR ADVERTISERS

[Broadband phone service for \\$7.95/mo - Lingo.com](#)

30 free trades at Ameritrade. Join now.

Every aspect of your digital life is ON SALE!

---

**RELATED ARTICLES**

---

- [Don't Try This Trick at Home](#) (February 15, 2005)
  - [Once Elusive, Orchids Flourish On Taiwanese Production Line](#) (August 24, 2004) \$
  - [TRADE SECRETS: It's Not a Good Sign When the Ceiling Buzzes](#) (June 17, 2004) \$
  - [SIDE EFFECTS: Welcome to Cicadaville \(Enter at Your Own Risk\)](#) (May 25, 2004) \$
- Find more results for [Insects](#)

---

**TOP SCIENCE ARTICLES**

---

- [Images Suggest 'Recent' Ice on Mars Sea](#)
  - [Moving Stem Cells Front and Center](#)
  - [Tiny Is Beautiful: Translating 'Nano' Into Practical](#)
  - [Longtime Expert on A.L.S. Now Knows It All Too Well](#)
- Go to [Science](#)

**TIMES NEWS TRACKER**

Topics	Alerts
<a href="#">Insects</a>	<input type="button" value="Create"/>
Track news that interests you.	
<a href="#">Create Your Own</a>	<a href="#">Manage</a>
<a href="#">Most Popular Alerts</a>	<a href="#">Take a Tour</a>
<input type="button" value="CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE \$"/>	